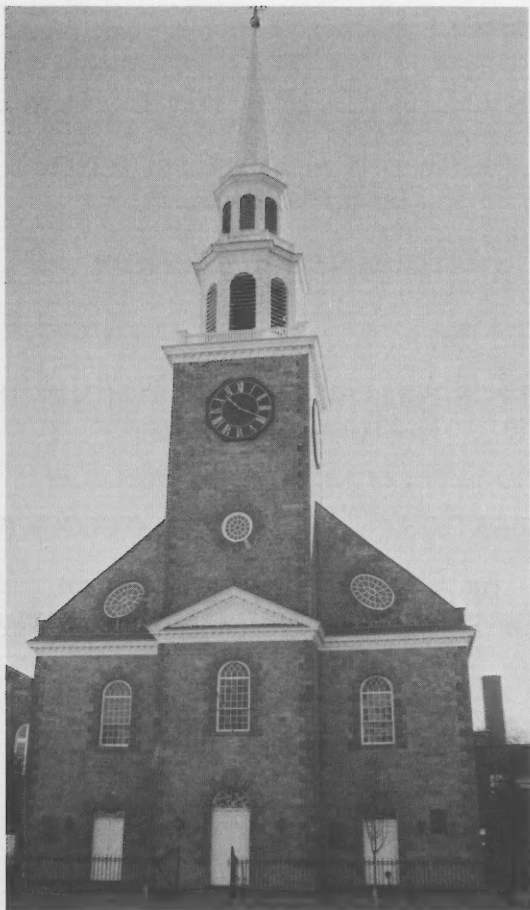


325TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS



OLD FIRST CHURCH PRESBYTERIAN
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

THE CHURCH WHICH FOUNDED NEWARK

In 1666, under the leadership of the Rev. Abraham Pierson, Sr., pastor of the congregational Church of Branford, Connecticut, and Robert Treat, a capable and adventuresome member of the congregation, the City of Newark was first settled. What was considered at the time to be religious persecution in the New Haven Colony motivated these early settlers to form a theocracy in the Colony of New Jersey on land owned by the Lenape Indian Tribe. While maintaining a firm belief in the separation of church and state, they believed that only Christians, that is, members of the Church, were to hold public office or participate in civic affairs. These recent immigrants from England and Scotland had experienced religious persecution under the Crown and desired only to safeguard religious freedom. The town was first called New Milford after a community in Connecticut from which many had come. Within the first year, the name was changed to Newark, in deference to Pastor Pierson, who had been ordained at Newark-On-Trent in England. The City of Newark was solidly built on spiritual foundations. Old First is the founder of Newark.

The first church building was of logs built at the corner of Broad and Market streets where Branford Place now intersects Broad. In 1716, a second and much larger stone church replaced the original building. Each of these buildings, in turn, hosted all civic and religious meetings. In 1791, the present church was erected on land originally owned by Robert Treat. Dr. Alexander MacWhorter, pastor for 48 years, patriot, close friend and advisor of General George Washington, can be credited with the vision to erect this magnificent church as a monument to God and a gift to future generations. Other buildings have been added as program and mission required.

The church became Presbyterian in 1719. Since that time, it has had the honor of having five of its pastors serve as moderators of the General Assembly, a record in the denomination. The Rev. Abraham Pierson Jr. succeeded his father as pastor, then left Old First to become the first president of Yale University in 1701. The great missionary to the Indians, David Brainerd, was ordained at Old First. The Rev. Aaron Burr, Sr., while pastor, founded and became the first president of the College of New Jersey (Princeton University), in 1747. The college remained at Old First until 1756. As the city grew and changed, Old First changed with it-- founding new congregations, welcoming other religious bodies, and adapting ministry to address the needs of those with different racial and cultural backgrounds. This was not done without struggle. The center of the church's ministry has always been the pulpit, and it has been blessed in having many great expositors of Holy Scripture. Having founded a city on spiritual foundations, the church has continued to emphasize spiritual values. Old First is pleased to be a part of the "Newark Renaissance," and trusts God to continue what was so nobly commenced in 1666.



200TH ANNIVERSARY
of
DEDICATION OF SANCTUARY
1791 - 1991

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 1991

WORSHIP

11:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

DR. CONRAD MASSA, GUEST PREACHER
Pastor, Old First 1961 - 1966

REDEDICATION OF THE SANCTUARY

CELEBRATION

12:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

"NEWARK AND ITS FIRST CHURCH"
A Visual Presentation

CHARLES CUMMINGS, NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
WILSON O'DONNELL, N.J. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JOHN A. MESZAR, ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1991

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

**THEME:
"SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS"**

WORSHIP

11:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

DR. DWIGHT A. WHITE, PREACHER
Pastor, Old First Church

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

LUNCHEON

12:30 O'CLOCK PM

TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP AND REMINISCING
Please make reservations (\$5.00)

CELEBRATION

3:00 O'CLOCK P.M.

DR. R. MAURICE BOYD, SPEAKER
Pastor Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, NYC

**RELIGIOUS AND CIVIC LEADERS
CHOIRS, BAGPIPES, ORCHESTRA
MEMBERS OF OLD FIRST AND FRIENDS**

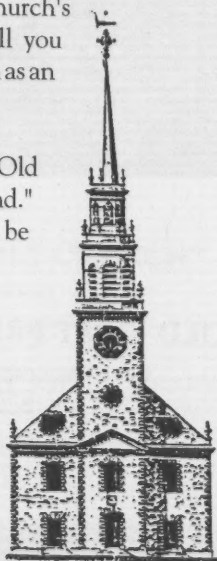
**HELP RESTORE
OLD FIRST'S ANTIPHONAL
ORGAN
as an
ANNIVERSARY PROJECT
\$70,000**

As a first step in the much needed restoration and/or replacement of the 60-year-old, 7278-pipe Austin organ, the boards of the church have authorized the complete renovation of the antiphonal (Chancel) organ. The console for this instrument is in the front left balcony with all pipes above the chancel. It has 1401 pipes and was designed to be used either as an antiphonal or auxiliary organ. Replacement cost, at today's prices, would be \$240,000.

THANKSGIVING AND FAITH

As an expression of thanksgiving to God for Old First Church and what it has meant to you and the City of Newark, and with faith in the Church's ministry at the Four Corners, will you assist in restoring this fine old organ as an instrument of praise to God?

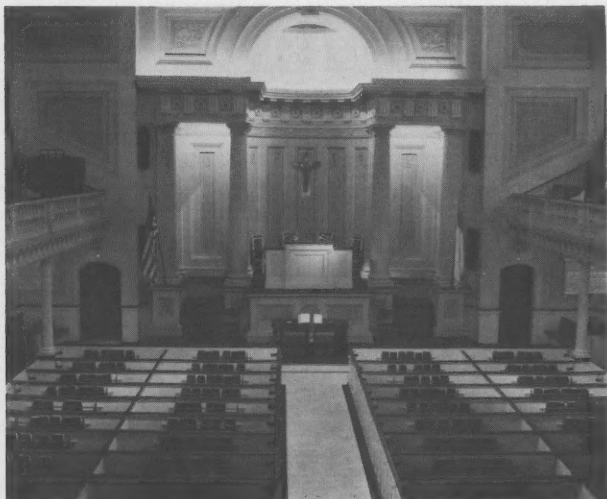
Contributions may be given to Old First Church, marked "Organ Fund." Your generosity and concern will be much appreciated.



375

**YOU ARE INVITED
TO CELEBRATE
THE 325TH BIRTHDAY
of
OLD FIRST CHURCH
and the
CITY OF NEWARK**

All events are open to the public.
Reservations needed for luncheon only



OLD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(At the corner of Broad and Market)
820 Broad Street,
Newark, New Jersey 07102
(201) 642-0260